

**Dispute Settlement Body Meeting
(25 July 2025)**

Hong Kong, China's intervention

Item 2. Appellate Body Appointments: Proposal by Afghanistan; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Australia; Bangladesh; Benin; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Congo; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Democratic Republic of Congo; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; the European Union; Gabon; The Gambia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Israel; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Republic of Korea; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; Liechtenstein; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Namibia; Nepal; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; the Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Tanzania; Thailand; Togo; Tunisia; Türkiye; Uganda; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Uruguay; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Viet Nam; Zambia and Zimbabwe (WT/DSB/W/609/Rev.26)

- Hong Kong, China (HKC) thanks Colombia for introducing this proposal, which enjoys the support of 130 Members. We refer to our previous statements made on this important matter. This widespread support of this proposal is a strong and unified signal of the importance Members attach to restoring a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system.
- A fair, credible, and predictable dispute settlement mechanism is the cornerstone of the multilateral trading system. Across various platforms within the WTO, especially during the recent consultations on WTO

reform, Members consistently reaffirm that having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement function is indispensable to safeguarding rules-based trade and maintaining confidence in the system. The continued paralysis of the Appellate Body undermines this essential function and must be urgently addressed. In this regard, we thank the efforts by you, Madam Chair, as well as that of the GC Chair, for conducting consultations with Members, with a view to mapping out the way forward.

- In the meantime, the Multiparty Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) reflects the shared commitment of participating Members to uphold the right to independent and impartial review and to maintain the integrity of dispute resolution. We welcome the increasing number of Members joining the MPIA in the recent months, with the United Kingdom being the latest party to it. We are also heartened by the announcement made by Vietnam today. We encourage more Members to consider joining the MPIA while work continues towards restoring a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement mechanism.
- Finally, I wish to join others in bidding farewell to departing colleagues, especially to DDG Angela Ellard, and thank them sincerely for their dedication and contributions. Thank you.
